

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 05456 290510Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00  
SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 MCT-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
INRE-00 SCS-03 /100 W  
-----080471 290516Z /14

O 290400Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6387

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG NIACT IMMEDIATE

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE 3471

AMCONSUL KARACHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5456

DEPT FOR M/CT AND S/S-O

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAIR, BG

SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN OPEN LINE TELEPHONE  
COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT DURING MUCH OF THE  
NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 28/29 (LOCAL). ALL OF INFORMATION  
REPORTED BELOW HAS THEREFORE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED  
TO DEPARTMENT. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES FOR OTHER POSTS  
THE EVENTS OF THIS PERIOD IN THE JAL HIJACKING.  
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PAGE 02 DACCA 05456 290510Z

2. HIJACKERS PRESENTED POLITICAL (AS OPPOSED TO LOGISTICAL).  
DEMANDS ABOUT 1800 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 28. THESE WERE  
THE RELEASE OF NINE PRISONERS IN JAPANESE JAILS  
AND THE PAYMENT OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS. AS EMBASSY  
TOKYO AND PRESS HAVE REPORTED, GOJ HAS "REGRETFULLY"  
ACCEPTED "IN PRINCIPLE" THE DEMANDS OF THE

HIJACKERS, WHO HAVE SET MIDNIGHT TONIGHT (LOCAL) AS DEADLINE. AFTER THIS HIJACKERS HAVE STATED THEY WILL BEGIN EXECUTION OF HOSTAGES HELD IN AIRCRAFT. EMBASSY TOKYO HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT GOJ INDICATES THAT IT IS "TECHNICALLY" IMPOSSIBLE TO DELIVER ANY OF THE NINE PRISONERS TO DACCA WITHIN DEADLINE.

3. BDG HAS DONE EXCELLENT JOB IN STALLING PRECIPITOUS ACTION BY HIJACKERS. IT IS, OF COURSE, NOT CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DELAY HIJACKERS BEYOND CURRENTLY SET DEADLINE. (NOTE: EMBASSY, SEVERAL OTHER EMBASSIES HERE AND POSSIBLY NEWS SERVICES AND OTHERS ARE ABLE TO TUNE IN ON AND ARE LISTENING TO RADIO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN TOWER AND AIRCRAFT.)

4. HIJACKERS HAVE AGREED TO RELEASE FIVE HOSTAGES WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THREE WOMEN, ONE MAN AND ONE CHILD AT THIS WRITING. DISEMBARKATION PLATFORM IS BEING MOVED ALONG SIDE AIRCRAFT AND THIS RELEASE COULD BE IMMINENT. WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET OF THE IDENTITY OF THE HOSTAGES WHO MAY BE RELEASED.

5. HIJACKERS HAVE ALSO SAID THAT WHEN THE PRISONERS AND MONEY IS DELIVERED THEY WOULD RELEASE ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS WELL AS ALL INDIANS AND PAKISTANIS ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 05456 290510Z

THE AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO DEPARTING DACCA FOR AN AS YET UNDISCLOSED (AND POSSIBLY UNDETERMINED) DESTINATION. MALE HOSTAGES CONTINUING WOULD BE RELEASED, THE HI-JACKERS SAID, AT VARIOUS STOPS THE AIRCRAFT WOULD MAKE AFTER LEAVING DACCA.

6. ON THE LOGISTIC SIDE, THE HIJACKERS HAVE DEMANDED AND RECEIVED A GROUND SUPPORT UNIT, FUEL TO TOP OFF TANKS AND WATER. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED FOOD AND THE BDG IS PREPARING TO PROVIDE THIS. THE NUMBER OF MEALS DEMANDED WAS 151 OR THE NUMBER WE ASSUME TO BE ON BOARD LESS THE FIVE WHO ARE TO BE RELEASED.

7. THE AIRCRAFT REMAINS PARKED ON THE APRON AT THE SOUTH END OF THE TEJAGON AIRFIELD ADJACENT TO THE CUSTOMS SHED. IT IS PARTLY VISIBLE FROM THE AIRPORT (MYMENSINGH ROAD). IN CONTRAST TO USUAL SUB-CONTINENTAL CONDITIONS WHERE VAST CROWDS ARE DRAWN TO THE MOST INSIGNIFICANT INCIDENT, THERE IS VERY LITTLE SIGN OF ACTIVITY VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD AND NO ONLOOKERS, ALTHOUGH NEWS OF EVENT HAS BEEN PLAYED ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

AND COVERS ALMOST ENTIRE FRONT PAGE OF LOCAL PRESS. SECURITY FORCES AT AIRPORT HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY ADDITION OF SEVERAL PLATOON SIZE GROUPS OF MILITARY. MANY EMBASSIES (INCLUDING THIS ONE) ARE REPRESENTED AT AIRPORT. AIR TRAFFIC IS NORMAL WITH ONE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT (BIMAN) DEPARTING LAST NIGHT AND INTERNAL AND CALCUTTA FLIGHTS OPERATING.

8. AS MENTIONED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH, EMBASSY CONOFFS HAVE BEEN ROTATING AT AIRPORT AND EMBASSY DOCTOR IS NOW STANDING BY THERE AS WELL IN EVENT ANY OF FIRST HOSTAGES RELEASED NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION. EMBASSY STAFF AND FAMILIES ARE ON STAND BY TO RENDER WHATEVER ASSISTANCE MAY BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE  
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PAGE 04 DACCA 05456 290510Z

WHEN AND IF HIJACKERS RELEASE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE.

9. LIAISON IS BEING MAINTAINED CLOSELY WITH BDG BOTH THROUGH MFA AND AT AIRPORT WITH CIVIL AVIATION AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES. WE ARE ALSO IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH JAPANESE AND OTHER EMBASSIES HERE.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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